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THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF ENCALYPTA LACINIATA

RALPH S. NANZ

In the revision of the North American species of *Encalypta* by Dorothy Coker in the November (1918) number of the Torrey Botanical Club Bulletin the southern limit for *Encalypta laciniata* (Hedw.) Lindb. [*E. ciliata* (Hedw.) Hoffm.] in the eastern United States is given as northern New York, presumably the Adirondack Mountains. While the range given in the revision is the normal one, it seems worth while to record the appearance of this species elsewhere.

Evans and Nichols, in the Bryophytes of Connecticut (1908), report it from Branford, Connecticut, collected by J. A. Allen in 1881. This *Encalypta* was found in 1884 by the late Prof. G. F. Atkinson in Enfield Ravine, Ithaca, and since then has been collected several times in the same ravine by others. The moss was collected from vertical limestone cliffs.

Although there are a number of ravines of a similar nature near Ithaca, *E. laciniata* has been found only in the one ravine mentioned. For this reason no very logical explanation can be given for its occasional appearance so far from its natural habitat.

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REVIEWS

Encalypta. A Revision of the North American Species by Dorothy Coker¹

In connection with our studies for *N. A. Flora*, a critical revision of this genus became necessary, as the modern conception of its rank and relations to the *Tortulaceæ* differs materially from that of the older authors. It is now recognized as distinct not only from the "*Pottiaceæ*," where it has generally been placed, but is known to be intermediate between the *Haplolepideæ* and *Diplolepideæ*, having the peristome characters of both groups represented in various species; hence it has been placed by Fleischer in a new group known as the *Heterolepideæ*.

A critical comparison of typical and authentic material from North American and European herbaria has enabled us to reduce the 18 species recognized by Paris's *Index*, Brotherus and Kindberg to 8, *extinctoria*, *rhabdocarpa*, *alpina*, *laciniata*, *apophysata*, *brevicolla*, *procera*, and *contorta*. Only one species still remains doubtful, *E. lacera* Ren. & Cardot., specimens of which were not available for critical comparison. All of Kindberg's species, based on Macoun's collections, prove to be either wrongly described or based on false premises, as indicated by me in some notes on this genus.² One new varietal combination *E. laciniata microstoma* (Schimp.) Coker occurs in this revision. Miss Coker

¹ Coker, Dorothy. Revision of the North American Species of *Encalypta*. Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the Faculty of Pure Science, Columbia University. Contrib. from the N. Y. Bot. Gard. No. 206. 1918. Reprinted without change of paging from Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **45**: 433-449. Pls. 13, 14. Nov. 15, 1918.

² Bull. Torrey Club **22**: 452-458. 1895.

is to be congratulated on the accuracy of her drawings and the rapidity with which she does them. We hope that this maiden task in hyper-critical study will not discourage her from undertaking further work in Bryology. She has been devoting her major energies to Bacteriology for the Red Cross, and it is understood is contemplating devoting herself to this work as a profession.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON.

A. Hesselbo—The Bryophyta of Iceland¹

This is decidedly one of the most important bryological works of recent years, as Iceland was, in respect to its bryophyte flora, the most neglected of fairly accessible northern lands. Lists prior to those of Grönlund the present author finds to be essentially worthless, while those of Grönlund himself were, besides being incomplete, rather faulty. The present author's collections and observations were made upon three summer trips, in 1909, 1912 and 1914, and the greatest weakness of the work lies in the fact that the whole island could not possibly be covered by such limited field work, as the author realizes. Still one is impressed by the remarkably good use made of the time at his disposal. There are listed 93 hepatics, 20 *Sphagna*, and 324 (or including 2 subspecies, 326) true mosses. The attention paid to species found only in sterile condition shows the carefulness with which the author worked. Old records which were based upon wrong identifications or are otherwise suspicious are not included, though notes upon them are inserted. The flora of Iceland is, as has long been known, essentially northern European, among the mosses *Bryoxiphium norvegicum* being a unique case of a species found in Iceland and North America, but lacking in Europe. Two new species in *Bryum* and one in *Brachythecium* are proposed. Under the separate species are remarkably detailed notes as to habitat, while the whole is summed up in an æcological supplement. Most interesting in this is the careful study of the flora of the various hot springs. Species of *Riccia*, *Anthoceros*, *Archidium*, *Entosthodon*, etc., were found confined to warm ground of this description, while other bryophytes found their best development and most frequent occurrence under such conditions. One thing missed in this part of the work is an adequate discussion of geological substrata, particularly as to their chemical constituents. It is for example certainly to be expected that the flora of the areas of acidic lava would differ from that of basic lavas, and there is even a limited area of sedimentary rock (apparently visited by the author near Húsavík). A good geological map, by Thoroddsen, makes it possible to lay out one's route somewhat with reference to these differences and to at least gain some fundamental ideas of the effect of the different rocks upon the moss-flora, which a work on the comprehensive plan of this one demands. Of the additions which I have published,² all with two exceptions, *Pleuridium alternifolium* and *Dicranella Grevilleana*, are included on the basis

¹ Rosenvinge & Warming. The Botany of Iceland, Vol. I, Part 4. Pp. 395-677. 1918.

² Bryologist 18: 51f. 1915; Torreyia 16: 47ff. 1916; 17: 60ff. 1917.